

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government have ascertained the persons involved in this case; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH):** (a) to (d) A tunnel, the digging of which was still in progress, was detected on 1.1.2001 about 55 yards on our side from the border-fence in the general area of Chauntra in Gurdaspur. The entry point of the tunnel was found to be in Pakistan, about 50 yards away from the International Border.

A Court of Inquiry has been ordered in this regard.

**Death of Air Force Personnel in Kutch**

**\*3659. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE:** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of the Indian Air Force personnel and their family members who died in Kutch airbase due to recent devastating earthquake;
- (b) the type and quantum of assistance provided to them by his Ministry;
- (c) the number of houses destroyed/damaged; and
- (d) what is Government's action plan for restoration of normal

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<sup>t</sup>Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

[19 April, 2001]

**RAJYA SABHA**

conditions there and by when it is likely to be completed and if not, the reasons therefor?

**THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH):** (a) and (b) In recent earthquake on 26th January 2001 in Gujarat 89 persons were killed at Air Force Station, Bhuj, which includes 29 Air Force personnel, 56 Dependents, 01 Ex-Serviceman and 03 Civilians. Relief work was undertaken, immediately and family members were evacuated by Service aircraft. Medical aid to the injured persons, temporary accommodation and food was also provided to the affected families.

(c) and (d) 194 dwelling units were destroyed or damaged. Construction of 130 married quarters, construction of single married accommodation and messes, special repairs of offices and married accommodation is under active consideration. In addition, action has been taken to provide desert coolers and fans for the tentage accommodation, housing personnel of Air Force Station Bhuj.

**Collection of Hydrographic Data by US and British**

**3660. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:**

**SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:**

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report "US, UK ships caught snooping in India Waters" published in the Times of India dated 1st February, 2001;

(b) if so, Government's reaction and since long US and British ships have been collecting the hydrographic data from Indian waters; and

(c) what steps proposed to taken to address the problems highlighted in the report and prevent the foreign hydrographic vessels from mapping Indian waters for future submarine operation in the area?

**THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The US Navy Survey Vessel USNS Bowditch was detected on 28 November 2000 and the UK Royal Navy Vessel HMS